**Purchase of Wooden Crates by the FCI in Punjab**

690. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of wooden crates purchased by the Food Corporation of India in Punjab this year so far ;

(b) what are the specifications of those crates and what is the price paid and what was the price paid for such crates during the last two years ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that prescribed/specified hard wood was not used by the selected suppliers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA ) : (a) No crates have been prchased in 1986.

(b) The question of specifications for 1986 does not arise. The price paid for crates made of Kail/ Deodar wood was Rs. 148/- per crate plus Sales Tax in 1985 and Rs. 50/- to a maximum of Rs. 62·14 per crate including taxes for crates made from Keekar, Eculyptus, Kokhat or any other wood in 1984.

(c) Certain complaints which have been received regarding the quality of wood are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

**Setting up of Civil Supply Corporations in States**

691. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Civil Supply Corporations have been set up in all the States and Union Territories ;

(b) if not, the names of States and Union Territories where such Corporations have not been setup so far;

(c) whether some guidelines have been issud by the Central Government to various States and Union Territories for the expansion of public distribution system in un-served areas; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether the Union Government have extended any assistance to any of the States/Union Territories to strengthen the infrastructure of public distribution system; if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Civil Supplies Corporations have not been set up in the following Sstates/Union Territories :

1. Assam, 2. Haryana 3.Manipur 4. Maharashtra 5. Nagaland 6. Meghalaya 7. Rajasthan 8. Sikkim 9. A & N Islands 10. Arunachal Pradesh 11. Chandigarh 12. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 13. Goa, Daman & Diu 14. Lakshadweep 15. Mizoram 16. Pondicherry 17. Tripura 18. Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has already advised the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for opening of new fair price shops wherever necessary and to provide easy physical access to consumers. Particular attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the coverage of rural, inaccessible and hitherto un-served and under served areas in their respective States.

There is a Central Sector Scheme, namely, assistance to States/Union Territories of North Eastern Region, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nciobar